

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment amends claim 11. It is respectfully suggested that this amendment raises no new issues that would require further searching. The subject matter being added to claim 11 by this amendment would have been searched during examination of allowed claims 21 and 24. This amendment to claim 11 was not previously submitted because it was believed that claim 11 patentably defined over British Patent No. 1,260,144. It is respectfully suggested that the amendment to claim 11 places the application in a condition for allowance.

The amendment to claim 11 recites that the metal ring has a radially outwardly angled flange that is embedded in the joint housing. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 24 is allowable because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a ball-and-socket joint comprising a metal ring having a radially outwardly angled flange that is extrusion-coated with material of a joint housing. It is respectfully suggested that the prior art also does not disclose or suggest a radially outwardly angled flange that is embedded in the joint housing. Therefore, allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 18, and 26 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Serial No. 09/554,025

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted
that the above-identified patent application is in condition
for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent
application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account
No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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